

**Minutes
Scottsdale City Council
Subcommittee on Regional Aviation Issues**

**Wednesday, July 9, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.
Scottsdale Airport Administration Conference Room
15000 N. Airport Drive**

Attendance: Chairperson Cynthia Lukas, Councilman Wayne Ecton, and Councilman Robert Littlefield
Staff: John Little, Transportation General Manager, Scott Gray, Aviation Director, Gary Mascaro, Assistant Aviation Director, Chris Read, Assistant Aviation Director, Matthew Johnson, Airport Administration Specialist
Public: Ms. Corrine Young, CCAAN
Guest: Mr. Lynn Kusy, Executive Director Williams-Gateway Airport

Roll Call

1. Minutes from June Meeting were not available for approval. Staff will provide minutes for approval at next regularly scheduled subcommittee meeting.

Subcommittee members noted that they were not notified of the meeting in a timely manner and asked that staff address the timely mailing of materials and the posting of agendas and minutes. John Little stated that the minutes and agendas were now available to the public on the new subcommittee website and he would see that improvements are made to insure timely notification of meetings per council direction which provides for agendas and packets to be delivered ten days prior to scheduled meetings and minutes posted ten days following each meeting.

2. Contract Tower Program Update

Mr. Lynn Kusy, Executive Director of the Williams-Gateway Airport made a presentation on his airport's experience with contract tower operations. He explained that currently 71 Visual Flight Rules (VFR) towers are currently not eligible to participate in this program. Current legislation in Congressional Conference Committee this week will begin crafting the final language for this legislation that will either further restrict the growth of the contract tower program or expand it. There is also some interest in "sole source" contract tower management, which would permit some airports to contract directly for tower services. The FAA is on record as opposing the sole source concept.

Chairwoman Lukas suggested it might be beneficial to weigh-in on this issue via a letter from the mayor and directing our Washington lobbyists to stay close to the hearings. It was decided we would prepare a draft letter to encourage expansion of the contract tower program and to direct the letter to our congressional leaders.

Mr. Kusy further described his experiences with the contract tower program as being very satisfactory. He highlighted both improved communication and safety as reasons for supporting the program. There was some discussion speculating about the reasons why contract tower safety performance exceeds FAA managed tower programs. It was felt that one reason may be that the contract tower program attracts more experienced personnel including retired FAA and military with many years of experience.

The subcommittee thanked Mr. Kusy for his time and said they would look forward to more updates. Subcommittee members also said they would like staff to forward any late-breaking news on the legislation via e-mail.

Pilot/Community Outreach Program Update

Scott Gray presented an update on the Pilot/Community Outreach Program. He noted a video is currently in production for the purpose of educating pilots on noise abatement procedures. Mr. Gray also reviewed the list of recent recipients of letters from staff to pilots who have been identified as having reportedly violated noise abatement practices. Councilman Ecton queried staff on the number of stage two aircraft currently operating at the airport and asked if air ambulance has deployed its newer quieter aircraft. Mr. Gray indicated that to his knowledge they have not completed their purchase of the quieter jets to replace the current fleet. Mr. Little recalled a request that air ambulance keep track of the measures they are taking to help the airport reduce noise. Mr. Gray said he would follow-up to see that such efforts are being tracked.

Robert Littlefield also noted that he predicts many upset citizens as DC Ranch planning unit one builds more homes in the flight path of our airport. He reiterated that this is a mistake that is unfortunately, too late to correct.

North Valley Radar Update

Scott Gray also provided an update on the status of the implementation of the North Valley Radar. Successful implementation of this program will allow us to establish charted visual flight rules that could help us keep aircraft, on approach, at higher altitudes especially in the corridor south and east of the airport. Mr. Gray indicated that July 15 ends the 60-day test. So far the South Valley radar seems to be working and he anticipates successful rollout of the program.

Other Current Issues

Other business included an update on the Naples challenge of the FAA on airport restrictions. The article from the local Naples, FL. newspaper indicated that it would be a long and costly battle. Naples airport authorities indicated a commitment to see it through.

Public Comments

None.

Subcommittee Comments

Robert Littlefield alerted sub-committee members that he anticipated an upcoming newspaper article that will feature input from him and will highlight noise and safety issues. He further described a call he made to the local FAA flight standards office asking for their help in reviewing safety issues and Scottsdale Airport.

Meeting Schedule

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM